

Silk Hat Harry's Escapades



(Creations of this Noted Cartoonist are regular features of The El Paso Herald.)

Fitz In Earnest, Really Is Anxious To Try White Hopes

Unlike Many Pioneers He Does Not Seek to Back Water When Reading What He Has Said; Law Should Debar Fighters on Downgrade From Entering Ring Is Belief

By W. W. NAUGHTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Jan. 5.—Many surprises are sprung in connection with pugilism from time to time, but the news that the time of the rope and golden platform has unveiled veteran Bob Fitzsimmons comes pretty near to being the premier sensation of the year just closed.

The pit of it is that Fitzsimmons seems to be actually in earnest about it. In his plan to be given a chance to show what he can do, he does not claim that he is an good as ever, or even advance the argument that he feels he has one good fight left in him.

He simply reasons that the present day pugilists are a bunch of rascals and that he has an opportunity to show that he is not under valuing them.

What causes this? Lay special stress on Fitzsimmons' earnestness in this connection in the fact that while other attempts along the big fellows have spoken from time to time of getting back in the game they always weakened and made denials when they saw the things they said in print.

This thing of feeling an itch to tread the boards again after years of retirement is a disease and it disappears very quickly when the fellow afflicted with it sees that he has become a mark of curiosity to the public and a mark of ridicule for the critics.

If you don't believe me, ask Jim Jeffries, Tom Sharkey and a few others. Fitzsimmons is with one exception the oldest ex-champion of the world in pugilism. His senior being John L. Sullivan, Bob has passed the half century mark and is recalling his earlier exploits, even in America, smacks of looking back into another life.

The writer saw him in his first bout in this country. That was when he whipped Billy McCarthy at the California club in San Francisco, about 22 years ago. I saw him in the middleweight championship fight with Jack Dempsey at New Orleans and the heavyweight championship from Jim Corbett at Carson. I saw him lose his heavyweight title to Jeffries and I saw him in the return match in San Francisco. I saw him box Gus Robins at Madison Square and even at that time it was 15 years ago. I noticed how longingly he splashed around in the sparkling round. He went back to his corner and said to George Dwyer, who was his trainer, 'I don't know what the matter is. I seem to have forgotten all I know.'

"I wish to be better when you get warmed up," said Dwyer encouragingly and sure enough Bob immediately improved and by round until he had Robins low with his famous shift in the sixth.

I saw him, two weeks later with Tom Sharkey at Coney Island. That time Bob profited by his previous experience and did his warming up in his dressing room before entering the ring. And Sharkey lasted about a round and a half.

I remember that Bob, flushed with success, leaned over the ropes and beckoned

vigorously to Jim Jeffries to come up and be challenged but Jim merely laughed and shook his head.

After another few years I saw Bob step 20 spirited rounds with George Gardner in San Francisco and said to myself right then: "My what a lamentable falling away!" Two years later it was in 1915—I saw Fitzsimmons slide from his chair in a state of coma after completing 12 rounds with Jack O'Brien and it occurred to me then that it would be a good thing if there were a law depriving pugilists from following their vocation when they were manifestly on the down grade.

Many such cases.

It has been the writer's lot to witness several such fights.

One was when Peter Jackson crumbled in front of Jim Jeffries and another when Frank Slavin, one of the most rugged and effective fighters of his day, lurched and reeled this way and that under the onslaught of punches administered by Joe Butler, a negro heavyweight.

But the saddest thing I saw in that line was merely a photograph of such a scene in far-away Australia. It depicted Bob Fitzsimmons flat on his back in the strong glare of the antipodean sun—his features as strongly marked as those of a dead Indian—a hie—and over him the form of Bill Lang, a man who has been licked by the rag, tag and bob-tail of fighters the world around.

IRON MASK MAKES NEW WORLD'S RECORD

A new world's record for six furlongs of 1:09 2-5 was made by Iron Mask, of the Jefferson Livestock stable, at the Juarez race track Sunday, when he beat Panamareta in a match race. The horse held the former world's record of 1:10 4-5 for the same distance. Iron Mask was trained by Noye Goldblatt.

Iron Mask ran the first three furlongs in 33 seconds, a half second faster than the world's record for this distance. He stopped the half mile in 45, which is one and one fifth seconds better than the world's record, and ran the five furlongs in 56 2-5, which is one and three fifth seconds faster than the world's time. Jockey John Loftus rode him.

FIX ROUTE FOR RUN.
Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 5.—The route for the run of the Maricopa Astro club from Phoenix to Tucson, scheduled for January 9, has been fixed. On the way down the autoists will go by way of Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Scottsdale and Casa Grande. On the return they will pass Florence.

Billy Evans' Baseball Problems

Written Especially for This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.

A PLAY came up in the American League last year that is not at all uncommon; it happens often during the summer in amateur, minor and big league games. Yet it confused for a moment an American League catcher who is rated as a star, and this confusion, resulting in an incorrect interpretation of the play, resulted in the loss of the game.

With runners on second and third and one out, the batter hit to the shortstop, who threw home, the man on third dashing for the plate. Seeing that he was a certain out, the runner stopped before reaching the plate, his object, of course, being to allow the other runners to advance as far as possible. A run-up between third and home then ensued, the runner who had been caught finally reaching third in safety. In the meantime, the runner on second had advanced to third, so that, as the catcher approached the bag with ball in hand, two runners were standing on the bag. He touched the runner who was originally on third when the batter hit the ball to the shortstop. Then he threw the ball to the pitcher, who was standing near by. Immediately, the runner who had come up to third from second made a dash for the second sack. The pitcher threw the ball to the second baseman, who was standing near the bag. He made a bad throw, the ball going into center field.

The runner on third, whom the catcher believed he had retired, made a dash for the plate as the ball rolled to the outfield. The runner who had started to return to second retraced his steps and beat it for third. The batter who was on second, having reached there while the other plays were being made, also started for the third sack. The center fielder made a bad throw to third and before the ball was recovered all three runners had scored. If you had been the umpire in that game what would have been your decision on the play at third and how many runs would you have allowed?

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Answer to Saturday's Problem.

THE player who dashed past the other runner and believed he had pulled a bright play, perpetrated an awful "bone." Just as soon as he passed the preceding base runner, who had not yet been legally retired, he was out for so doing, had automatically retired himself, so to speak. His actions made the second out of the inning; the other runner, when finally touched out, made the third out and retired the side without a run. The score being still a tie, extra innings were necessary. Such a crowd had surged on the field, believing the game over, that the umpire was powerless to clear the diamond for action. He called upon the police, but they could not get the fans off the field. As a result, the umpire forfeited the game to the visitors and then took it on the run.

B. E.

SCOOP THE CUB REPORTER



(Scoop is a regular feature of The El Paso Herald.)

Earl Puryear, a Coming Fighter, Reaches El Paso From Denver

EARL will be fighting the top-notchers for the title inside of three months," says A. S. Rosa, manager of Earl Puryear, the clever little Colorado bantamweight and contender for the 116 pound championship, who arrived in El Paso Sunday afternoon from Denver. Considered a boxing expert to be one of the speediest and cleverest boxers in the game, Puryear has met the best men in the bantamweight division throughout the country.

Puryear is a clean-cut little fellow, about the size of Kid Williams. He appears to be and is the typical bantamweight, with arms and legs built more for cleverness and speed than for slugging tactics, to which many of the little fighters adhere. After winning the 105 pound amateur championship title at the Denver A. C. tournament three years ago, Puryear immediately turned professional, and has been handled by Ross since his first contest. Because of the ten round draw which Puryear secured with "Battling" Chico, the California 116 pounder, at Denver several weeks ago, manager Rosa has received a number of offers from promoters of various clubs along the coast and throughout the country. Chico is rated as a class A bantam on the coast, having fought for the title a number of times, usually being handicapped by weight in favor of his adversary.

"Kid" Kelley, of New Orleans, who fought nine fierce rounds with Baltimore ("Kid") Williams, at Madison Square garden, was defeated by Puryear at New Orleans. Lee Patterson, George Kitson, Red Hughes and Eddie Lennon have gone down before the onslaught of the fierce little Coloradoan. He doesn't smoke or drink, and takes excellent care of himself, according to manager Rosa. If he isn't fighting he is working.

BEACHEY FLIES AGAIN IN HAIR RAISING FASHION

San Francisco, Calif., Jan. 5.—Turning seven somersaults in a biplane in one flight Sunday, Lincoln Beachey established a new aviation record. One of the loops was executed directly above a crowd of more than 20,000. In another loop Beachey did what is known as the "corkscrew" twist while his aeroplane was in a perpendicular position.

A feature of this exhibition was a somersault performed around a hydro-aeroplane. Since he turned his first somersault in the air five weeks ago, Beachey has done the trick 43 times.

COMMITTEE OF PLAYERS LEAVE FOR CONFERENCE
New York, Jan. 5.—The committee appointed by the Baseball Players' federation to confer with the national commission relative to changes in the form of contract between player and club left today for Cincinnati, where the conference will be held on Tuesday. The committee will consist of Jack Daubert, Brooklyn; John Henry, Washington; Jack Miller, St. Louis; Ray Collins, Boston, and David Fultz, president of the federation.

MILWAUKEE SCOUT PICKS UP TWO PHOENIX BOYS.

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 5.—Herbert Hall, pitcher for the Phoenix Senators, and Horace Griffin, first baseman of the Tempe Bears, both big men, will train with the Milwaukee team of the American association next spring. They have been recommended to the Milwaukee manager by J. O. Munk, an American association umpire who is spending the winter in Phoenix and doing a little scouting on the side.

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EARL PURYEAR.

ELEVATOR MAN, KILLED, WAS FAMOUS JOCKEY.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 5.—John Clancy, elevator man killed by a fall down the shaft in the Illinois central railway station, was a famous jockey in England and rode two Derby winners, according to his widow.

Mrs. Clancy said her husband rode by the prince of Wales, to victory, and repeated by winning the next year's Derby. She said that he enlisted in the British army after he got too heavy to ride and saw service in India, after years in Australia. Clancy was about 60 years old.

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PECOS VALLEY WILL HAVE A BALL LEAGUE

Roswell, N. M., Jan. 5.—According to the local baseball fans the Pecos valley is every three years. Basing their judgment on this the fans, headed by Henry Schwartz, will begin immediately to organize a Pecos Valley league, which will be of class D. The towns asked to be in the league are Carlsbad, Clovis, Artesia, Pecos and Roswell.

SHOOTERS PREPARE FOR RAPID FIRING

Preparatory to the rapid firing work which will come later in the season, the firing at the Creedmoor target at a range of 200 yards Sunday afternoon at the weekly shoot of the El Paso Rifle club was done while in a kneeling position. This shoot was the first to be held under the regulations of the National Rifle association, of which the local club recently became a member. At 200 yards the firing was done in a prone position. Both the battle and peep sights were used in this practice. Sunday afternoon, January 11, the club will use the Ft. Bliss range over the 300, 500 and 600 yard course.

CARPENTIER ACCEPTS TERMS FOR TOUR IN AUSTRALIA

New York, Jan. 5.—George Carpentier, the French pugilist, has accepted the terms offered for an Australian tour and will appear at Sydney during Easter week if a suitable opponent can be secured for a 20 round bout.

Frameups Deaden the Boxing Game Coarse Work Kills Interest of Fans

BOXING circles, according to critics recently arrived in El Paso, are dull all over the country. In New Orleans, there is very little enthusiasm for the fighting game, while interest is not as keen as formerly on the coast. "Frameups" and ill-matched bouts is said to be the cause. In New York the "white hops" question, which was discussed freely there quite a while, is practically dead.

Overtures have been made to a number of prominent Pacific coast league players by Federal league agents, according to the reports. Honus Writts, formerly manager of the Oakland team, is one player being sought. Elmer Koenig and Walter Carlisle, Venice players, have already received offers. It is said, "Dutch" Kiewit, of Sacramento, and Earl Maggart, the heavy hitting Angel, are also wanted.

Charles Herzog, new manager of the Cincinnati Reds, is planning a training school for young baseball players who aspire to become professionals. When the Reds are at home, each morning the youngsters will be allowed to mingle and play with the Nationals. Herzog believes that he will land some stars by this new stunt. He points to the classes of Jack Barry, discovered by Connie Mack on a Baltimore sand lot.

Telegraphic advices from the world touring Giants and White Sox in the Pacific ocean, state that many of the players have been struck and declare that they would never have left home if they had known of what was to come. When they were overtaken by a storm, which continued for nine days. Not one of the players believe that there is any calm water in that part of the world.

Otto Knabe, the hard hitting second sacker of the Philadelphia Nationals, has signed a contract to manage the Baltimore Federal league club, according to a Chicago dispatch. President Weegham, of the Chicago club, stated that Johnny Miller, recently traded to Pittsburgh by St. Louis, would be signed to manage the Toronto team. Knabe has declined to make a statement.

Tommy O'Rourke, the Memphis lightweight, who fought "Fighting" Thorpe, of Kansas City, at the Juarez arena, several weeks ago, is now in Santa Fe, N. M., making efforts to secure a bout with Pierce Matthews, the St. Louis lightweight.

Hank O'Day's idea of reducing the catcher's box, in an effort to eliminate the intentional pass, has been received with favor by president Ben E. Johnson, of the American league. The league head does not believe that the scheme would handicap catchers in intercepting base stealers or in handling pitches.

"1914 will be a disastrous year for baseball," says Ben Johnson, president of the American league. Minor league teams, it is said, lost considerable money during the past season. Johnson says that the club owners have become extravagant and wasteful and the players, with their demands for higher salaries, have helped bring about a condition injurious to the pastime.

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